

HABITAT MANAGEMENT FOR RIO GRANDE WILD TURKEY

BIOLOGY JOB SHEET TX-2

MAY 1984

WATER- Turkey drink water daily. Distribute watering sites at least 1 mile apart. Locate watering points near roost trees and nesting cover. Modify metal water tanks to permit use by poults without danger of drowning. Construct overflow pits at windmills.

ROOST TREES- Protect roost trees during brush clearing operations. for mottes of tall trees along streams, creekbeds and draws. Live oak, hackberry, bur oak and cottonwoods provide good roosts. Remove brush under and around roost trees to eliminate concealment for predators.

NESTING COVER- The previous year's growth of tall and mid grasses is excellent nesting cover. Properly planned grazing systems or lightly to moderately stocked continuous grazing will usually provide adequate nesting cover. Do not graze good nesting pastures from March 1 through May 31.

TRAVELWAYS- Leave strips of brush untreated during aerial applications of chemical herbicide. Do not remove brush along streams, draws and other drainage ways during other brush removal operations

FOOD- Plant small grain for late fall and winter food. Plant alfalfa, grain sorghum, millet and peanuts for summer and fall foods. Add maximilian sunflower and Illinois bundleflower to grass seed when seeding pastures. Protect mast-producing trees, such as live oak, native pecan, cedar elm, hackberry, Bumelia and ash. Control excessive numbers of deer, sheep and goats to prevent over-utilization of forbs and browse. Manage cattle grazing to permit seed production by grasses